Guide 1:

Using the Tutor & Assessor Directory to Find a Specialist Tutor

What is the BDA Tutor & Assessor Directory?

The Tutor & Assessor Directory aims to help you find tutors and assessors who offer specialist support for dyslexia and/or dyscalculia. It is a directory, not a recommendation service. Being listed does not mean that a tutor has been endorsed by the BDA.

Before choosing a tutor/assessor, you should carry out your own checks and talk directly to the tutor about your child or young person's needs, or your own.

Looking for a tutor already verified by the BDA?

If you would prefer to access a tutor who has been verified **by the BDA and meets our specific professional and safeguarding requirements**, you can explore the **BDA Tuition Service**.

Find out more about the BDA Tuition Service →
https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/services/tutoring-service

What support can a tutor provide?

A specialist tutor may help with:

- Reading
- Spelling
- Writing
- Literacy skills
- Maths and numeracy
- Study skills
- Organisation and learning strategies
- Assistive technology

What should I check before choosing a tutor?

Choosing a tutor is a big decision. As well as checking that you feel an individual tutor is a good match for you or your child or young person, we would recommend carrying out the following checks. These are all

reasonable things to ask, and high-quality practitioners will understand why you ask them.

A professional directory like the this can be a useful starting point, but it is important to carry out your own checks as well. The BDA recommends checking all these areas to get a full picture of whether the tutor is suitable.

Qualifications and accreditation

Ask the tutor about their specialist training and qualifications.

You may wish to look for BDA accreditations such as:

- ATS (Accredited Teacher Status) - dyslexia
- APS (Accredited Practitioner Status) - dyslexia
- ATD (Accredited Teacher Dyscalculia)
- APD (Accredited Practitioner Dyscalculia)

To join the BDA Tutor & Assessor Directory, tutors must have the relevant BDA accreditation for tutoring and be current BDA Professional Members.

Professional membership

Professional membership provides an additional indication that a practitioner maintains a relationship with a recognised professional organisation such as the BDA, PATOSS or Dyslexia Action.

Ask which professional body they belong to and whether their membership is current. Practitioners on the BDA Tutor & Assessor Directory must be **current** BDA Professional Members.

Professional membership can be helpful, but it is not a guarantee of quality or suitability.

DBS check

Ask whether the tutor has a current Enhanced DBS check and whether it is appropriate for working with children. It is reasonable to ask for evidence of the DBS check.

Insurance

Check that the tutor has professional indemnity insurance covering the services they provide.

References

You may wish to ask a tutor whether they can provide professional references or testimonials.

Relevant experience

Ask about their experience working with:

- Children of your child or young person's age
- Dyslexia and/or dyscalculia
- Co-occurring learning needs
- Online or face-to-face tuition
- Examination requirements
- Similar learning needs
- The educational stage your child is at
- Any recommendations already made in an assessment report

Questions to ask a tutor

- What experience do you have with children like mine?
- How will you identify my child's strengths and difficulties?
- How will you plan the teaching programme?
- How will you measure progress?
- How often will progress be reviewed?
- How will you communicate with me?
- Will you liaise with my child's school if needed?
- What are your fees and cancellation arrangements?

Tutor Checklist

Before booking, check that the tutor has:

☐ Relevant specialist qualification

☐ Appropriate professional accreditation

☐ Current professional membership

☐ Current Enhanced DBS check

☐ Professional indemnity insurance

☐ Experience with your child's age group

☐ Experience with your child's needs

☐ A clear teaching approach

☐ A system for monitoring and reporting progress

☐ Clear fees and cancellation arrangements

Remember

The Tutor List helps you identify tutors, but it does not recommend individual practitioners. Always carry out your own checks and make sure the tutor is appropriately qualified and suitable for your child or young person, or yourself.